



Sister Republics

Building Bridges 2012

An Action Plan for Women's Leadership

The Bernerhof, Bundesgasse 3, Bern
Wednesday, March 7, 2012 - Bern, Switzerland

- 8:00 **REGISTRATION** and Starbucks Coffee - Salon II & III
- 8:30 **OPENING REMARKS** – Leuchtersaal
 U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein Donald S. Beyer
 Greetings from U.S. and Swiss Leaders:
 Melanne Vermeer, US Ambassador-At-Large for Global Women's Issues
 H.E. Federal Chancellor Corina Casanova
- 8:40 **GENDER EQUITY FROM THE COMMERCE PERSPECTIVE: THE BOTTOM LINE**
 Rebecca M. Blank, Acting Deputy Secretary of Commerce and
 Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
- 9:00 **OUR CONFERENCE APPROACH**
 Megan Beyer, Conference Chair
- 9:05 **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**
 Susan Elbow, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, introduces:
 American Keynote Speaker
 Judith McHale, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, CEO Discovery Network
 Swiss Keynote Speaker
 Isabelle Welton, IBM Country General Manager for Switzerland
- 9:45 **WORK GROUP TOPICS AND OVERVIEW OF "GENDER EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT:
POLICY AND PRACTICES IN THE U.S. AND SWITZERLAND"**
 Megan Beyer introduces Michelle Kelso, PhD Assistant Professor of Human
 Services, Sociology and International Affairs, George Washington University
- Good Housekeeping Seal of Gender Equity: Certification Programs and Benchmarks***
 Nicole Schwab, Co-Founder, The Gender Equality Project
- Flexible Work and Partnership Models that Work***
 Irenka Krone-Germann, Author, *Part-time Employment in Switzerland, Relevance,
 Impact and Challenges*

Providing for Family: The Price of Motherhood – Child Care Structures that Work (School Systems, Social Security Benefits)

Ann Crittenden, Author, *The Price of Motherhood*

Mentoring v. Sponsoring : Getting the Next Generation of Women into Leadership

Nia Joynton-Romanzina, Head of Global Diversity & Inclusion, Swiss Reinsurance Company

Quotas: Is it Time?

Irene Natividad, Chair, International Corporate Directors, Global Women's Summit

10:45 **BREAK** - Starbucks Coffee - Salon II & III

11:00 **WORK GROUPS** - Banquet Room

Good Housekeeping Seal of Gender Equality: Certificate Programs and Benchmarks

Work Group Leader: Ellen Moran, Chief of Staff, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Reporter: Christine Maier –Anchor 10 vor 10, Schweizer Fernseh

Flexible Work and Partnership Models that Work

Work Group Leader: Mary Davis Holt, Author, *Break Your Own Rules*

Reporter: Sylvie Hoffman, Deputy Regional Coordinator for the USA, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Providing for the Family: The Price of Motherhood - Child Care Structures that Work – (School Systems, Social Security Benefits)

Work Group Leader: Andrea Binder, Office of Gender Equality, Swiss Dept. of Interior

Reporter: Susan Ness, Chief Executive Officer, Susan Ness Strategies

Mentoring the Next Generation of Women Leaders

Work Group Leader: Anita Dunn, SDK Knickerbocker, Former White House Communications Director

Reporter: Vincenza Trivigno, Executive Vice President, Stadler Rail AG

Quotas- Is it Time?

Work Group Leader: Lisa Feldman, Editor in Chief, Annabelle Magazine

Reporter: Eleanor Tabi Haller-Jorden, General Manager for Europe, Catalyst

12:00 **BREAK** - Starbucks Coffee - Salon II & III

12:15 **CONCLUSIONS/ COMMITMENTS / REPORTS** - Leuchtersaal

12:45 **CLOSING REMARKS & CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**

Melody C. Barnes, Former Domestic Policy Advisor to President Obama

1:00 **NETWORKING LUNCH** - Sponsoring Hotel, the Bellevue Palace, Kochergasse 3